

Sharpshot Hamm beats Wycombe

Sports Mail Special Report

WIMBLEDON ... 2 : WYCOMBE WANDS. 1

IN the 35th minute of a thrilling Isthmian League game at Plough Lane, Wimbledon, this afternoon, centre forward Reynolds headed a grand goal for Wimbledon, fell to the ground and was carried off the field. He was able to resume later. Almost immediately Atkins equalised for Wanderers. In the second half Hamm got the winner for Wimbledon.

Wimbledon: Ledger; Martin, Rudge; Ardrey, Law, Wright; Burton, Wallis, Reynolds, Hamm, Williams.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Moring; Truett, Fisher, Fryer; Atkins, Trott, James, Bates, Free.

Referee: Mr. H E Jones.

Wycombe pressed in the opening minutes and Atkins, gathering a Fryer pass, sent in a first-timer which nearly carried Ledger into the net.

With Wimbledon's vaunted defence surprisingly brittle against sharp Wycombe raids, James twice went close.

Beating his man delightfully Bates sped towards goal and his crisp ground shot beat Ledger only to go outside.

The Wycombe goal was endangered as Reynolds raced down the centre, but Brown made a daring save. Back went persistent Wycombe and James again went close.

After Reynolds had beaten Brown in a mid-air duel, Fisher headed over the bar. The game was being fought at a scorching pace.

FINE HEADER

As the Dons found their touch Wanderers were lucky to escape as the dangerous Reynolds continued to beat Fisher in the air.

Repeated Wimbledon raids looked like paying off, but Brown, well supported by Moring, Beck and Fryer, kept Wimbledon out.

With ten minutes to go till the interval REYNOLDS careered into the Wycombe penalty area to head a fine goal, but he paid a high price, having to be carried off. Wycombe equalised immediately, ATKINS running through to score.

Half-time: Wimbledon 1, Wycombe 1.

There was good news for Wimbledon fans at half-time, when Reynolds, who was found to have injured a nerve and not to have broken a bone, as had been feared, decided he could play on.

Even with Reynolds limping at half speed, the Dons were full of fight and both goals came under pressure.

An opportunist goal by international Geoff Hamm, in the 66th minute, gave Wimbledon the lead. The inside left slammed home a sharp shot after Moring had cleared from Burton.

Flat out for an equaliser, Wycombe could blame mediocre shooting and good goalkeeping for keeping them in arrears. Bates and James went close, and Law twice made invaluable interceptions for Wimbledon.

RESULT:

WIMBLEDON 2
WYCOMBE 1

WYCOMBE ARE TOPPLED BY CHAMPIONS

Wimbledon 2 Wycombe 1

THE Isthmian League champions beat the league leaders at Plough Lane—but only just.

In the final minutes of this thrill-a-minute battle of the amateur giants every Wycombe player was in Wimbledon's half and the whole of the Dons' defence and most of their attack packed the penalty area.

But Wycombe's do-or-die effort failed to produce an equaliser. They now lose the top position they have held for most of the season.

Wimbledon deserved their win. Their hero was 6ft. 2in. centre forward Eddie Reynolds, leading scorer in the Isthmian League last season.

Injured when scoring from a brilliant flying header—described as the best of his career—he returned in the second half to make Wimbledon's winner.

In his absence, Atkins equalised for Wycombe with a first-time shot after a solo run from the centre circle.

Reynolds, hobbling around the penalty area with a sprained ankle, was ignored when Williams prepared to take a corner in the 76th minute.

This was Wycombe's biggest mistake. The unmarked Reynolds headed down a perfect cross and Burton passed the ball on to international discard Geoff Hamm, who flicked the ball into the net for the winner.

From then on it was all Wycombe but hard as they fought there was no equaliser.

In the final 15 minutes the game became really heated. During this period the referee blew up for more than 20 fouls.

Outstanding for Wycombe were Atkins, Bates, and James.

Law and Martin stood out in Wimbledon's defence and Burton and Wallis in their attack.